

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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R 202048Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY LISBON
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS PO US

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND PORTUGAL

REF: TEL AVIV 2715 NOTAL

1. IT HAS BEEN OUR POLICY NOT TO VOLUNTEER COMMENTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES ESTABLISHING EMBASSIES IN ISRAEL ABOUT WHETHER THEY SHOULD USE TEL AVIV OR JERUSALEM AS THE SITE, AND EMBASSY LISBON SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DOING SO.
2. IF THE PORTUGUESE, HOWEVER, SHOULD ASK WHAT THE U.S. POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT IS, THE EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT WE BELIEVE DETERMINATION OF THE ULTIMATE STATUS OF JERUSALEM IS NOT AN ISOLATED PROBLEM BUT IS PART OF THE ENTIRE COMPLEX OF ISSUES IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. A SOLUTION TO THE
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PROBLEM MUST BE SOUGHT IN THE CONTEXT OF A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT AS A WHOLE AND MUST BE BASED UPON AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

3. THE 1949 GENERAL ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN LEFT THE QUESTION OF THE PERMANENT STATUS OF JERUSALEM IN ABEYANCE PENDING A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT. THE

U.S., ALONG WITH MOST OTHER COUNTRIES, DOES NOT OFFICIALLY

RECOGNIZE JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL, AND OUR EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BE LOCATED IN TEL AVIV. WHILE THE U.S. HAS NEVER RECOGNIZED EITHER ISRAELI OR JORDANIAN CLAIMS TO SOVEREIGNTY IN JERUSALEM, WE HAVE DEALT ON A PRACTICAL BASIS WITH ISRAELI AND, UNTIL 1967, JORDANIAN AUTHORITIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTORS OF THE CITY. IN 1974, FOR EXAMPLE, THE U.S. PRESIDENT CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL AT THE LATTER'S RESIDENCE IN THE WESTERN SECTOR OF THE CITY, AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS TO ISRAEL FOR MANY YEARS HAVE PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIALS TO THE ISRAELI PRESIDENT AT THE SAME PLACE.

4. IF THE PORTUGUESE SHOULD WANT FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT U.S. POLICY AND PRACTICE IN THIS SPHERE, EMBASSY LISBON SHOULD REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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